ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

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the WORLD ALLIANCE for INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES
the WORLD ALLIANCE of YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
the WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
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No. 41 Fifteenth Year October 15, 1948

Message from the Lambeth Conference

The following Message from the Anglican Bishops assembled at Lambeth this summer (see E.P.S. No. 32/33) was read in the Churches of the Anglican Communion throughout the world on Sunday October 10th:

"The Church is not something made by men. It is the instrument of the living God for the setting-forward of His reign on earth. God in Christ has won the victory. The Church lives in the power of the Resurrection. The gates of Hell cannot prevail against it. This is an hour of testing and peril for the Church, no less than for the world. But it is the hour of God's call to the Church. Thus the keynote of our message is encouragement to the people of God all over the world. For those tho have eyes to see, there are signs that the tide of faith is beginning to come in.

"We know well how hard it is for many of you to live as Christians in this present age. Some of you have to meet opposition in non-Christian homes; some are a small minority of Christians in non-Christian lands. Many of you are trying to bear your witness in face of contempt and ridicule, in the places where you work day by day. All at times are tempted to lose heart and to wonder whether, under such conditions, Christian living is possible, or whether, if possible, it is worth while. We are certain that it is possible, and worth everything, and we write this letter to tell you why.

"Remember that some of the first believers were slaves owned by non-Christian masters. Many suffered persecution for Christ's sake. It was often hard for those who were in Christ before us. Because they were faithful in their generation, the light still shines in the House of God, and the torch of faith has been carried across the earth. Many of the younger Churches of our Communion, during the last hundred years, have been born in martyrdom, and in our own day this witness unto death has been renewed. The Christian life is always difficult. The fight against evil is always costly. Without the Cross, there could have been no Resurrection. But the Resurrection is the guarantee that the love of God is stronger than death or evil.

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"Whatever man may do, God is undefeated. God reigns. The world belongs to Him, and in it He is working out that purpose which He has revealed to us in Jesus Christ. He uses imperfect and sinful men to be its servants. Christians may not always be better than their neighbours, but we serve a better Master. His is the cause that has life and hope in it.

"This life and hope are offered to the world. Only when the sovereignty of Christ is owned in our communities can they become what God wills them to be. Societies that are built on other foundations are built on sand. In the world of our time two ways of living, two beliefs concerning the meaning of human life, contend with one another for man's soul. The battle is between that faith in God and man through Christ, by which man is set free, and (against it) the creeds of materialism and the will to power, by which he is enslaved. The Church is the champion of man against all that cheapens and degrades him; for the Gospel is the charter of man's dignity. The mission of the Church, now as always, is to proclaim and live out the Gospel by which alone men can be saved from sin and judgment, and the world from despair and self-destruction.

"The social order is all the time being made by the thoughts men think, the loyalties they honour, and the deeds they do or leave undone. If the Church is to be to the world as salt, which preserves civilisation from corruption and keeps life wholesome, there must be something distinctive about us Christians - in the way we do our daily work, in the homes we make, and in the standards by which we live. We must take our full part as citizens. Yet, in so doing, we must not forget that we are citizens of a heavenly Kingdom and inheritors of an eternal destiny. While we seek to serve our earthly cities, our allegiance always is to Christ the King; and to hold by that is our highest contribution to the good of those among whom we dwell. For freedom and justice in the world depend on there being enough men and women who say, 'We must obey God rather than men'.

"What is wrong with the world is that it has forsaken or never known the true God and is defying His moral law. We long for peace, but there can be no peace which is not founded on justice, and there can be no justice unless men acknowledge the authority of God. Science is putting into the hands of men new and incalculable power. But this power is turned to disaster and destruction when men forget that it is given by God, to be used for the fulfilment of His purpose. Once we ignore the first and great commandment, we do not long obey the second, and sooner or later ruin follows. 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve'. Man must worship. Only by so doing can he preserve his true nature and standing as a child of God. The ancient word still speaks to all of us: 'Take heed that ye forget not the Lord your God'.

"Thus the supreme task of the Church today is to win the nations of Christendom back to the knowledge of God revealed in Jesus Christ as Judge and Saviour, and to take the good news to those who have not yet heard it. We call on all our people to engage in this campaign and to put themselves into training for it. Every man, woman, and child has his part to take. God, in His mercy, has given to us in our Conference a clearer vision of His will and purpose for His Church and of its mission in the world. To these we bid you dedicate yourselves.

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"That dedication is already being made by faithful Christians of every race, and not least in the devoted service offered by their clergy. But far more priests are needed, and, if the supply of men called and equipped for the ministry is lacking, all Christian strategy must, humanly speaking, fail. With them are needed men and women for many other forms of whole-time service, and therefore a revived sense of vocation throughout the length and breadth of the Church. There is no place in the Church for those who will not try to honour the obligations of their membership. We thankfully recognise how many do so honour them, how great is the zeal of many of our younger people, and how much is owed to the witness of faithful congregations and to churchwardens and other office-bearers. But all must take their full share. We must show that we put God first by regular worship on the Lord's Day. We must put our minds to the understanding of our religion, so that we may meet men's doubts and questions with a reasoned faith. We must bring the teaching and example of Christ into our everyday lives. We must do our duty in paying for the Church's work. The Church in the diocese and parish is the key to the whole situation. The local congregation is the place where men must find the life of the Great Church, which is God's instrument for the world's salvation. See to it, then, that your congregation is a true community in Christ, that it may influence the common life of its whole neighbourhood. Nothing that is good in the sight of God should be outside the Church's interest.

"And since Christ's cause in the world can never be fully served by a divided Church, we also lay upon you the duty to take every opportunity of co-operating with Christians of other Churches, and to work and pray for the Reunion of Christendom.

"Finally, we invite all men and women to join with us under Christ's banner in the war against the evils which wreck man's life and against the false creeds which debase it. In that war there can be no neutrality. To those who stand aloof Christ says, 'He that is not with me is against me'.

"So we commend you to God's love. May He supply all your need, according to the riches of His grace." E.P.S. Geneva

NORTH AMERICA

European Theological Students to Study in the United States and Canada

Sixty-two European theological students will study in the United States and Canada in the 1948-49 academic year on scholarships sponsored by the Department of Reconstruction of the World Council of Churches and affiliated organisations.

Of the 62, a total of 38 are new scholarship students who arrived in American or Canadian seminaries in August and September. An additional 5 new students also have their travel papers and are scheduled to sail in October. The remaining 19 scholarship recipients will study on extensions of old scholarships. Fifteen of these are Greek theological students who are now in their third year of American theological study.

Of the 43 new students, 7 are from Czechoslovakia, 5 from Finland, 5 from France, 18 from Germany, 4 from Holland, 3 from Hungary and one from Norway. The United States will be host to 35 of these students and Canada to 8.

"That dedication is already being made by faithful Christians of every race, and not least in the devoted service offered by their clergy. But far more priests are needed, and, if the supply of men called and equipped for the ministry is lacking, all Christian strategy must, humanly speaking, fail. With them are needed men and women for many other forms of whole-time service, and therefore a revived sense of vocation throughout the length and breadth of the Church. There is no place in the Church for those who will not try to honour the obligations of their membership. We thankfully recognize how many do so honour them, how great is the zeal of many of our younger people, and how much is owed to the witness of faithful congregations and to churchwardens and other office-bearers. But all must take their full share. We must show that we put God first by regular worship on the Lord's Day. We must put our minds to the understanding of our religion, so that we may meet man's doubts and questions with a reasoned faith. We must bring the teaching and example of Christ into our everyday lives. We must do our duty in paying for the Church's work. The Church in the diocese and parish is the key to the whole situation. The local congregation is the place where men must find the life of the Great Church, which is God's instrument for the world's salvation. See to it, then, that your congregation is a true community in Christ, that it may influence the common life of the whole neighbourhood. Nothing that is good in the sight of God should be outside the Church's interest.

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This is the first year that scholarships have been awarded for study in Canada. They have been given by the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church in Canada through the Canadian Council of Churches.

The living expenses of the students are borne by the theological seminaries which they attend or the Churches which sponsor those seminaries. The students' travel costs are borne by Church World Service and the National Lutheran Council in the United States and by the Canadian Council of Churches in Canada.

In addition to the 43 students who are going to North America this autumn, scholarships were awarded to 29 other students, but approximately half of them could not obtain the necessary travel papers. E.P.S. Geneva

SWITZERLAND — Southern Baptists's Seminary

A 50-room private estate in Ruschlikon, suburb of Zurich, has been purchased for use as a theological seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States.

The Seminary will not open until the autumn of 1949. However, a faculty is now being assembled and two professors are already in Zurich. The Seminary is intended especially to serve students from Italy, Roumania, Bulgaria, Spain, Yugoslavia and Hungary where the Southern Baptist Convention has a mandate to work, according to a world Baptist agreement, and where it is hoped to establish "feeder" Bible schools. The Seminary also will be open to qualified students from other countries interested in higher theological education. Facilities for a faculty and student body of 25 are planned. E.P.S.Geneva

NETHERLANDS — Conference on the Growing Church

The meeting of the Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam was preceded in Holland by an interesting and valuable conference of students and missionary leaders on "The Growing Church". The main responsibility lay with the World's Student Christian Federation, but it had the full cooperation of the International Missionary Council. One hundred and thirty delegates from over thirty countries took part. About one quarter of the membership of the Conference came from the Younger Churches. The Chairman of the Conference was the Rev. K.H. Ting, of China, now on the staff of the World's Student Christian Federation, and the Chaplain was the Rev. D.T. Niles of Ceylon.

There were key addresses on Africa, China and the Moslem world, but the main work of the Conference was done in a dozen small groups which tackled different phases of the life of the Church in the world today.

Two valuable discoveries were made at this meeting. The first was that the missionary growth of the Church is the common concern of Christian students whether from the older or the younger Churches. There was no evidence at all of any division in thinking between sending and receiving countries. The second discovery was that the tide has again turned in the student world and that in many countries there is evidence of a rise of missionary interest in Christian circles in the universities.

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The Report of the Conference is being published as the fourth quarter of "The Student World", and copies may be obtained from the W.S.C.F., 13 rue Calvin, Geneva. E.P.S.Geneva

Brief News

Father Boyer and Ecumenism:- Father Charles Boyer, S.J., President of the Roman Catholic movement for Christian unity, "Unitas", has refused an invitation to attend the First International Congress for Religious Reform in Italy. Among the reasons which he gave for this refusal, he said he did not think an initiative of this kind "would be in accordance with the 'ecumenical' spirit which has so much influence among non-Catholics, and which was recently manifested at Amsterdam". "This spirit", he added, "is not altogether what I would have wished, but it is praiseworthy in that it tries to find the things which unite Christians and which strengthen their Christian faith in the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ."
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The Quakers Appeal for Peace:- The Meeting for Sufferings of the Society of Friends has sent an appeal to the British Government, stating that only in "growing confidence can the tension between nations be resolved... We believe that a moral lead would add greatly to the growth of confidence. We therefore urge the British Government to declare that this country will neither manufacture nor use atomic or bacterial weapons... It would contribute to the solving of the underlying conflicts of aims and purposes between the Eastern and Western Powers which is essential to permanent peace." E.P.S.Geneva

American Church Women Plan Radio Peace Prayer:- American women all over the country are expected to gather at their radios on Friday, November 5, to join in a prayer for world peace. Leading the prayer will be Mrs. Harper Sibley, President of the United Council of Church Women, who will broadcast over the ABC network beginning at 11.30 a.m. The United Council of Church Women has asked all who are able to listen to the broadcast and join the prayer. Plans call for Council groups to hold discussion meetings immediately after the radio programme.
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U.S.S.R. Latest Church News

The Moscow Patriarchate is engaged on the publication of a new periodical, which is to be called the "Bogoslovskij Vestnik" (Theological Messenger). This will appear side by side with the "Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate" and will give regular information about the theological work of the Russian Church.

According to a press-notice from the U.S.S.R., Gabriel Kostelnik, the Orthodox Bishop of Lemberg, has been murdered. Bishop Kostelnik was formerly a priest of the Uniate Church (the Roman Catholic Church with Byzantine ritual). He was one of the representatives of that Church who advocated the affiliation of the Uniate Church to the Moscower Patriarchate, which was carried out in 1946.
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GERMANY

Espelkamp - A Town Belonging to the Church

On the railway-line between Herford and Bremen, in the east of Westphalia, is the small station of Espelkamp, which gave its name to one of the largest munition works of the Wehrmacht. But now, hidden in a deep forest that extends for over 1,200 acres, a town is growing up that belongs to the Church. The British Occupying Authorities handed the land over in 1947 to the "Hilfswerk" of the Evangelical Church, which has already erected a number of buildings and started industries in them. Nearly 100 buildings were still in good condition after the war, including four large munition works and 16 smaller ones. Most of the other buildings are strong stone barracks, which easily can be adapted for other purposes.

The building work was started in 1947 with a small group of ten homeless prisoners of war, who made themselves a home in a deserted farmhouse belonging to the camp. At that time there were 80 ex-prisoners living there, some of whom have now been joined by their families. The first task undertaken in the summer of 1947 was the erection of a home for children. Throughout the summer of 1948 this was used as a holiday centre for 400 children and young people. Next year it plans to take 1000 children. A home for old people has also been opened.

In addition plans are on foot to open homes for young people who need social care, a sanatorium for tuberculosis, and homes for disabled persons.

In the second group it is planned to have training-schemes. A domestic science school has been started, and a horticultural school is to follow. It is also planned to open a training home for refugee children, a primary school with a secondary school, a school for emigrants, a home in which disabled soldiers can learn new trades, and finally - in cooperation with the Evangelical Men's Work - a social school. But Espelkamp will receive its special character from the third group of buildings: the manufactures and industries for which a number of buildings have already been let to manufacturers.

This programme, on which 200 men are now working, should be completed within about five years' time. One outstanding feature is the plan to send helpers from the Churches, who will help with the work at Espelkamp for six months, during which time they will be supported by their particular Church. There is also a project to give a sort of laymen's training later on in Espelkamp to the labourers and other workers, so that when they return to their regular occupations they can work there as ambassadors of the Church. E.P.S. Geneva

NETHERLANDS

International Conference for Theological Students

The World's Student Christian Federation during the summer organised a conference for students of theology, which was held at Woudschoten. It was held from September 7 to 13, and was attended by 161 theological students from 27 different countries. The general theme of the conference was how to describe the ecumenical movement and especially the Amsterdam Assembly, to theological students. The programme of the Woudschoten conference included plenary sessions, work in commissions grouped along the lines of the four sections at the Amsterdam Assembly: they dealt with the nature of the Church, evangelism and the Biblical

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bases for a social ethic. Some of the speakers, who had attended the Assembly at Amsterdam, described some of the main problems which arise today in the ecumenical movement. Professor John C. Bennett, of Union Theological Seminary (New York) gave a general description of the Assembly. Professor E. Schlink (Germany) spoke about ecumenism as a theological problem. Professor Joseph Hromadka (Prague) spoke on the Church's message to the world. Pastor Michael Bruce of Great Britain spoke on the re-birth of the Church through parish life; and the Rev. D.T.Niles (Ceylon) spoke on the problem of church unity.

During the conference four communion services were held, according to the Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox and Reformed traditions, and one of the main subjects for discussion was the problem of inter-communion - all the delegates having had direct experience during these days of the painful barriers which divide Christians when they come to the Lord's Table.

Finally, the conference was an opportunity for fruitful discussion about the participation of theological students in ecumenical work, their responsibility towards the life of their universities, and the help which the World's Student Christian Federation can give them in their theological work and in their share in ecumenical life.

This conference continued a tradition which had been interrupted by the war, and extended it from Europe to the whole world, but it is only the first stage in a programme for contact between theological students. The delegates expressed the fervent hope that similar conferences would be held regularly in future, where ideas could be exchanged more frequently. E.P.S. Geneva

FRANCE Congress of the Protestant Federation of Teachers

The Congress of the Protestant Federation of Teachers was held from Sept. 3 to 6, at Glay, and was attended by 123 teachers, representing the three grades of teaching, from all over France. Since the first congress in 1947 at Chambon sur Lignon considerable progress has been made. Many people have realised that the Federation, far from being one more group detrimental to Protestant action, is a link between the Church and isolated village teachers, or in provincial towns, who often have little contact with the Church because it is too far away from their school. The revue of the Federation "Faith and Education", tries to meet this need, and the Congress considered many other ways of creating a link between the scattered members of the Reformed Church.

During an excursion to the Saut du Doubs, the members of the congress were warmly welcomed by the Roman Catholic "University Parish" of Besançon, who invited them to a meal in their chalet. "We had a very friendly discussion", wrote one delegate, "which was not confined to banal reflections, but which revealed our mutual desire to be loyal to the one Lord, Whom we prayed and praised together with one accord". E.P.S.Geneva

Congress on Religious Instruction:- Another congress was held at Glay in September; the third Congress on Religious Instruction, which was attended by 80 delegates, all of whom were teachers in Sunday Schools, and by some delegates from Sweden, Belgium Switzerland and Italy. E.P.S.Geneva

bases for a social ethic. Some of the speakers, who had attended the Assembly at Amsterdam, described some of the main problems which arise today in the oecumenical movement. Professor John O. Bennett, of Union Theological Seminary (New York) gave a general description of the Assembly. Professor E. Sauline (Germany) spoke about oecumenism as a theological problem. Professor Joseph Hromadka (Prague) spoke on the Church's message to the world. Pastor Michael Ramsey of Great Britain spoke on the re-birth of the Church through parish life; and the Rev. D.T.Niles (Ceylon) spoke on the problem of church unity.

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